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COUNTRY Indochina

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Against Nghia Lo

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1. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) attack against Nghia Lo, launched 29 September 1951 under General Nguyen Son¹, was designed to seize the opium crop in the area and increase its price, to boost DRV morale and to break French control of the Thai country.
2. Units participating in the attack included the 88 Regiment of the 308 Division, the 209 Regiment of the 312 Division and the 174 Regiment of the 316 Division [REDACTED]². About 5,000 troops of the Sino-Vietnamese allied forces were also used in the attack.³
3. As of 12 October the DRV had occupied Phong Tho and had inflicted heavy casualties on French paratroopers in Nghia Lo through the use of Soviet-made mines with nylon covering.
4. On 12 October French communications between Son La and Lai Chau had been broken.⁴

1. Comment. According [redacted] from another source, Son was made commander of a new Sino-DRV frontier army which replaced former allied forces in the area which had been removed to the Lai Chau area.

2. Comment. [redacted] from another source, reports the 38 Regiment and elements of the 209 Regiment in the Nghia Lo attacks. The 316 Division, however, has been consistently reported in northeast Tonkin.

3. Comment. [redacted], from another source, also reports the use of Chinese Communist troops in the current fighting.

4. [REDACTED] Comment. Presumably ground communications.

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